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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/719,478	SUZUKI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Debra Wolfe	3725	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed November 21, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4, 7-10, 12 and 14-18.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |


DERRIS H. BANKS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700



NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. John Skinner on January 24, 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

1. Delete "claim 1" from claim 4 line 1 and insert --claim 3--
2. Delete "a fixed punch projecting from the holding member" from claim 4 line 3 and insert --the fixed punch--
3. Delete "a fixed punch projecting from" from claim 8 line 14
4. Delete "claim 7" from claim 16 line 1 and insert --claim 15--
5. Delete "a fixed punch projecting from the holding member" and insert --the fixed punch--

Allowable Subject Matter

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance.

1. It is the opinion of the examiner that the art of record (considered as a whole) neither anticipates nor renders obvious the following:



A. a wire rod-forming apparatus “wherein once the shaped part of the wire rod is cut off from the unshaped part movement of the cutting member moves the shaped part toward an end side of the shaft-shaped chute” in combination with the rest of the claimed limitations set forth in claim 1.

B. a wire rod-forming apparatus having “a supply route for compressed air to move the shaped part of the wire rod cut off from the unshaped part to an end side of the shaft-shaped chute” in combination with the rest of the claimed limitations set forth in claim 7.

C. a wire rod-forming apparatus “wherein within the die-cast the punch hole can serve as a supply route for compressed air” in combination with the rest of the claimed limitation set forth in claim 8.

D. a wire rod-forming apparatus having “a rotation table installed in the lower region of the shaft-shaped chute, a plurality of shaft-shaped magazines positioned in the upper region away from the rotation table, and a rotation table controller which rotates the rotation table” in combination with the rest of the claimed limitations set forth in claim 9.

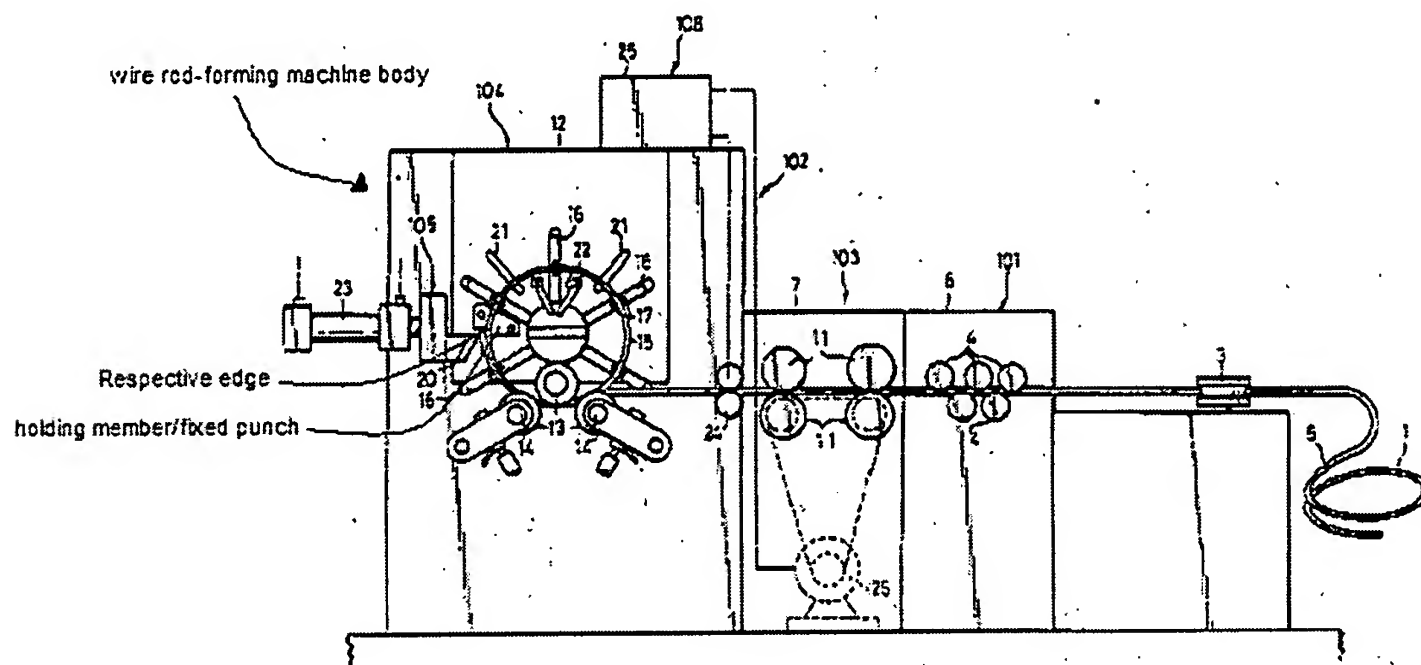
E. a wire rod-forming apparatus having a pair of touch sensors that detect the relaxation of the belt-shaped thereby keeping the belt-shaped wire rod constant between the touch sensors in combination with the rest of the claimed limitation set forth in claim 12.

Further searching by the examiner yielded additional prior art as follows:

2. Yoshioka (U.S. Patent # 4,823,576) discloses an apparatus for manufacturing ring-shaped member from elongate work piece having a wire rod-forming machine body (See FIG below), bending rollers (13) for shaping a wire rod into a ring shape, a cutting member (cutting means 105) having a respective edge (blade 20) that moves in a horizontal direction in the wire rod-



forming machine body and cuts the wire rod therefore separating the shaped part from the unshaped part, and a holding member/fixed punch having a respective edge (See FIG below) is crossed by the cutting member (cutting means 105) and allows the ring to be moved once it is cut by the cutting member (cutting means 105).



Williams (U.S. Patent # 4,335,758) discloses an apparatus for advancing and forming a wire having a forming mechanism (50) consisting of a set of rollers (57,59,61) arranged to produce wire rings (63). Williams also discloses the use of a shaft-shaped chute (cable 69), which is capable of being positioned within the inner side of the wire prior to the winding of the wire, for the purpose of transferring the ring shaped member to a storage area (See FIG 2).

Tipper (U.S. Patent 4,173,235) discloses a method and apparatus for forming wire to noncircular cross sections that teaches the use of pressing rollers (forming rollers 50, 54) for the purpose of pressing a length of wire to a noncircular cross section by using pressing rollers.



3. However the above cited prior art fails to disclose the limitations of claims 1, 7, 8, 9, 12 stated above in paragraph 1. Therefore, it is concluded that the present invention is allowable subject matter over the prior art. Claims 1-4, 7-10, 12, 14-18 are allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Debra Wolfe whose telephone number is (571) 272-1904. The examiner can normally be reached Monday - Thursday 6am - 3:30pm with alternating Fridays 6am - 2:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Derris Banks can be reached at (571) 272-4419. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.



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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Debra Wolfe
Examiner
Art Unit 3725

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Derris H. Banks", is positioned above the printed name.

DERRIS H. BANKS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700